movement and delivery of freight consignments through Customer Service Cells to be set up on all Zonal Railways.

Using the shadow-path created behind fast moving mail/express trains for speedy movement of freight traffic. High speed goods trains are slated to follow superfast express trains with adequate safety precautions to ensure expeditious transit of select high value and perishable goods.

Withdrawal of Rajdhani Express

3779. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nizamuddin-Secunderabad Rajdhani Express has been withdrawn;

(b) if so, from which date it has been withdrawn; and

(c) what are the reasons for its withdrawal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) At present Secunderabad is connected to Nizamuddin by 2429/2430 Rajdhani Express on 4 days a week. The Nizamuddin-Secunderabad Rajdhani Express has been extended to Bangalore *via* Secunderabad w.e.f. 31.12.99. With this arrangement, Secunderabad is also connected to Bangalore by an overnight Rajdhani service 4 days a week and at the same time, Secunderabad has not been deprived of the Rajdhani services to Nizamuddin.

Civic-Amenities at Chunar Railway Station

†3780. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is constantly receiving memoranda/demand letters since 1995 from several persons and institutions for providing civic-amenities at Chunar railway station;

(b) if so, the details of demands made in such memoranda/demand letters; and

(c) what action has been taken so far by the Department, in this regard?

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Only one representation from Shri Rajiv Kumar Ojha of the Citizen Users' Committee, Chunar, has been received demanding an increase in length of platform No. 5 and the provision of toilets. Works for extension of platform has been sanctioned. This station is already provided with one toilet each for ladies and gents on platform in addition to three toilets in waiting room. This is adequate for the present volume of passenger traffic. This facility will be further augmented when so warranted by growth in passenger traffic.

Space in retiring rooms at Vijayawada and Secunderabad

3781. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over-night passengers do not have space or retiring rooms in major railway junctions like Vijayawada and Secunderabad in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that middle class people are forced to stay in hotels due to lack of proper retiring rooms, etc;

(c) what steps the railways are taking to improve such amenities for passengers;

(d) whether additional space would be made available in the forth-coming year for passengers to rest, while they wait for trains;

(e) whether the railways have observed the difficulties of passengers at Secunderabad and Vijayawada railway stations; and

(f) the steps proposed to tackle such problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (f) Adequate accommodation is generally available in the retiring rooms/dormitories at all the important stations including Secunderabad and Vijayawada Railway Stations. The average occupancy of retiring rooms/dormitories at Secunderabad and Vijayawada is less than 80%. As such, there is no justification at present for provision of additional retiring rooms/dormitories at Secunderabad and Vijayawada Stations. Moreover, provision and augmentation of retiring facilities is a continuous process depending upon the demand pattern.